

CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A lip gasket (1) designed to be mounted between the a lid (2) and the a bowl (3) of a cooking appliance (4) for the purpose of providing sealing between said lid (2) and said bowl (3), comprising:

_____ said gasket (1) comprising at least first and second lips (1A, 1B), interconnected by a heel, said first and second lips (1A, 1B) and said heel (1C) being such that, when the lips (1A, 1B) are brought together, they are suitable for defining a closed interstitial space (100);

_____ said gasket (1) being characterized in that it is provided with having at least one geometrical discontinuity (80) suitable for acting, when the lips (1A, 1B) are brought together, to provide at least one path (9, 90) for putting said interstitial space (100) into communication with the outside.

2. (Currently Amended) AThe gasket (1) according to of claim 1, characterized in that wherein said geometrical discontinuity (80) is a discontinuity due to addition or removal of material.

3. (Currently Amended) AThe gasket (1) according to of claim 1 or 2, characterized in that wherein the said geometrical discontinuity (80) comprises distance-keeper means (8) for keeping the first and second lips (1A, 1B) apart from each other;:

_____ said distance-keeper means (80) being interposed between said first and second lips (1A, 1B) so as to prevent said lips (1A, 1B) from being pressed together, at least locally.

4. (Currently Amended) AThe gasket (1) according to of claim 3, characterized in that wherein the distance-keeper means (80) comprise at least one local bead (8A) of material.

5. (Currently Amended) AThe gasket (1) according to of claim 4, characterized in that wherein each local bead (8A) forms a projection extending from the first lip (1A) towards the second lip (1B).

6. (Currently Amended) AThe gasket (1) according to of claim 5, characterized in that wherein each local bead (8A) is formed by a rib.

7. (Currently Amended) AThe gasket (1) according to claim 6, characterized in that wherein each rib extends from the heel (1C) over substantially the entire length of the first lip (1A) in cross-section.
8. (Currently Amended) AThe gasket (1) according to any one of claims 4 to 7, characterized in that wherein each local bead (8A) is formed integrally with the first lip (1B).
9. (Currently Amended) AThe gasket (1) according to any one of claims 4 to 8, characterized in that wherein it is provided with a plurality of local beads (8A) that are spaced apart from one another.
10. (Currently Amended) AThe gasket (1) according to claim 1 to 2, characterized in that wherein each lip (1A, 1B) respectively has an inside face and opposite outside face; the inside faces of the lips (1A, 1B) facing each other, the geometrical discontinuity (80) comprising at least one notch (80A) provided in the inside face of one of the lips (1A, 1B).
11. (Currently Amended) AThe gasket (1) according to any one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that, with wherein the bowl (3) extending in an axial direction (X-X') between a bottom (3B) and the lid (2), said gasket (1) is shaped such that, when it is mounted between said lid (2) and said bowl (3), the first and second lips (1A, 1B) extend substantially towards the bottom (3B) of the bowl (3).
12. (Currently Amended) AThe gasket (1) according to any one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that wherein it said gasket is substantially of channel section, the flanges of the channel section forming respective ones of the first and second lips (1A, 1B), the web of the channel section forming the heel (1C).
13. (Currently Amended) AThe gasket (1) according to any one of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that wherein it said gasket is substantially annular in shape.
14. (Currently Amended) AThe gasket (1) according to claim 12 and claim 13, characterized in that wherein it said gasket is substantially circularly symmetrical in shape, corresponding to its section being rotated about an axis of circular symmetry (X-X') that is substantially parallel to the first flange and/or to the second flange of the channel section.

15. (Currently Amended) A cooking appliance (4) comprising:

_____ firstly a bowl (3); and
_____ a lid (2) designed to be received on said bowl (3) so as to form a cooking enclosure; and
_____ secondly a gasket (1) according to of any one of claims 1 to 13, said gasket (1) being mounted between said bowl (3) and said lid (2).

16. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The appliance (4) according to of claim 15, characterized in that wherein the lid (2) has a drop skirt (2B), while the bowl (3) has a bottom (3B) from which a side wall (3A) extends upwards to an entry rim (3C); said lid (2) and said bowl (3) being arranged so that, when the lid (2) is received on the bowl (3), the side wall (3A) surrounds the drop skirt (2B), said gasket (1) being interposed between the drop skirt (2B) and the side wall (3A).

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The cooking appliance (4) according to of claim 15 or claim 16, characterized in that wherein it ~~said cooking appliance constitutes is~~ a pressure-cooking appliance.

18. (New) The gasket of claim 2, wherein the geometrical discontinuity comprises distance-keeper means for keeping the first and second lips apart from each other, said distance-keeper means being interposed between said first and second lips so as to prevent said lips from being pressed together, at least locally.